

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 01267 221407Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSM-03 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 AID-05 FRB-03 USIA-06 TRSE-00
XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 CIEP-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15
STR-04 CEA-01 DODE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 /084 W
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R 221325Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4967

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, ECON, IS
SUBJECT: STRIKES AND STRIKE THREATS ABATE AS GOVERNMENT MAKES
FURTHER CONCESSIONS

REF: TEL AVIV 1231

1. DESPITE BITTER CONFRONTATIONS BETWEEN ENGINEERS' AND ACADEMIC EMPLOYEES' REPRESENTATIVES ON THE ONE HAND AND HISTADRUT AND GOVERNMENT NEGOTIATORS ON THE OTHER WHICH HAD THREATENED TO PROLONG NEGOTIATIONS OF CURRENT STRIKE WAVE, AGREEMENTS WERE REACHED ON EVENING OF FEB 21. AND MORNING OF FEB 22 TO PAY INCREASES RANGING FROM IL 200-800 PER MONTH, THUS ENDING THE TWO MAJOR STRIKES. ENGINEERING TECHNICIANS AND POSTAL WORKERS HAVE ALSO CANCELLED THEIR STRIKE THREAT AND AGREED TO NEGOTIATE ON THE BASIS OF GOVERNMENT OFFER. HOWEVER, CONCESSIONS HAVE ALREADY ENCOURAGED OTHER EMPLOYEES IN THE PUBLIC SERVICES TO RAISE NEW DEMANDS, AND GOVERNMENT IS AWARE THAT IT WILL HAVE TO YIELD ALSO TO THEM.

2. THE NEW WAGE CONCESSIONS COVERING APPROXIMATELY 52,000 EMPLOYEES REPORTEDLY MAY ADD IL 300-500 MILLION
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TO THE GOVERNMENT PAYROLL, THUS SERIOUSLY UNDERMINING THE DRAFT 1977 BUDGET NOW PENDING IN THE KNESSET. IN THE MEANTIME KNESSET CONSIDERATION OF THE GOVERNMENT'S BATTERED PROPOSAL FOR A WAGE/PRICE FREEZE HAS AGAIN BEEN POSTPONED. IT, ALONG WITH THE INTERIM BUDGET PROPOSAL, WILL NOT BE SCHEDULED UNTIL AFTER THIS WEEK'S LABOR PARTY CONVENTION.

3.COMMENT: DESPITE ANXIETY AND UNCERTAINTY IN GOVERN-
MENT AND HISTADRUT CIRCLES, THE SCENARIO OF THE TWO
LATEST PUBLIC SERVICE STRIKES AND THEIR SETTLEMENT
FOLLOWED PREDICTABLE LINES (REFTEL), I.E., A GOVERNMENT
CAVE-IN DESPITE ONLY MINIMAL DISRUPTION OF GOVERNMENT
SERVICES AND INCONVENIENCE TO THE PUBLIC. WITH OTHER
CLAIMANTS ALREADY HAVING VOICED DEMANDS FOR SIMILAR
CONCESSIONS, THIS DOES NOT NECESSARILY END THE POSSIBILITY
OF FURTHER STRIKE THREATS AND NEAR CRISES. BUT
AT LEAST FOR THE TIME BEING, THE
GOVERNMENT, PARTY POLITICIANS, AND HISTADRUT LEADERS WILL
BE ABLE TO DEVOTE THEIR ATTENTION TO THE MAIN BUSINESS
AT HAND--THE ELECTIONS.
DUNNIGAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: UNION GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, LABOR STRIKES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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